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10/694,213	10/28/2003	Kazunori Horikiri	117616	3001

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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/694,213	HORIKIRI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	HIEU T. HOANG	2452	

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS,
WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *10 November 2008*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-26* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-26* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the

fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection.

Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114,

and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the

previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114.

Applicant's submission filed on 11/10/2008 has been entered.

2.   Claims 1-26 are pending.

Response to Arguments

3.   Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are moot in

view of new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for

all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or
> described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject
> matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole
> would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary
> skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived
> by the manner in which the invention was made.

5.   Claims 1-6, 8, 10-15, and 16-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as

being unpatentable over Dalal et al. (US 2003/0014488, hereafter Dalal), in view

of Zhu et al. (US 2003/0220973, hereafter Zhu), further in view of Eaton et al.

(US 2003/0101343, hereafter Eaton) and Vange et al. (US 2002/0019853,

hereafter Vange)

6.   For claim 1, Dalal discloses a teleconference system for supporting

realization of cooperative work among a plurality of conference systems

(abstract), the teleconference system comprising:

- site systems each being installed at a plurality of sites, each site system

  being configured to operate the corresponding conference system (fig. 1,

  clients with client conference controllers);

- a shared workspace server configured to connect the site systems to each

  other (fig. 1, conference service provider) so as to allow users of the site

  systems to share a workspace for using a task among the site systems

  (fig. 2, [0012], conference control tasks are performed to enable users to

  perform cooperative work) and

- an authenticator to control user access to the files in the shared

  workspace based on an access control list ([0057], user ID, [0046] lines 4-

  10, retrieving a conference database record file requires checking for user

  ID associated with that conference)

  Dalal does not explicitly disclose sharing and editing files to enable users

to perform cooperative work between the site systems;

  However, in the same field of endeavors, Zhu discloses sharing and

editing files to enable users to perform cooperative work between the site

systems (abstract, a user can open and edit a recorded file in a conference).

It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Dalah and Zhu to enable users to share and edit files between the site systems to provide more functionality to the conference system.

Dalal-Zhu does not explicitly disclose a prioritizor to assign priority for displaying an initial workspace.

However, Eaton discloses assigning priority for displaying an initial session or workspace ([0031], prioritize the sessions for displaying to the user based on an algorithm).

It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Dalal, Zhu and Eaton to display to the user a highest priority session based on session priority levels so the user can participate in the most important session first.

Dalal-Zhu-Eaton does not disclose prioritizing is based on at least one of the following items of information: (i) network information of a server; (ii) position information of the server; (iii) information regarding a name of the shared workspace, file name and URL received from the server; (iv) a user's schedule information and current time; (v) company user name information; and (vi) information indicating what shared workspaces were used in the past.

However, Vange discloses priority levels are calculated based on network information of a server ([0016], priority of content based on server address, URL), name of session, filename and URL ([0016], session id, content id, URL), company user name information ([0016], user id, address)

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Dalal, Zhu, Eaton and Vange to retrieve or display a conference session based on different priority levels so that different sessions can be retrieved optimally based on user, server and related network resource information.

7.   For claim 2, Dalal-Zhu-Eaton-Vange further discloses the shared workspace server is further configured to manage a session for managing connection of the site systems (Dalal, [0019]-[0021]), a file used in a conference and created as a record of the conference (Dalal, [0036], lines 11-20), reference information to a resource relevant to the conference (Dalal, [0049], claim 6), and history information of file access made by conference participants (Dalal, [0036] lines 5-12).

8.   For claim 3, Dalal-Zhu-Eaton-Vange further discloses the shared workspace server is further configured to provide a user interface for connecting a session and making reference to a file and/or a resource (Dalal, fig. 5, web browser, [0097]).

9.   For claim 4, Dalal-Zhu-Eaton-Vange further discloses the shared workspace server is further configured to instruct, when a client starts a session, all other clients already starting the session to connect to the client (Dalal, [0043], [0058]).

10.   For claim 5, Dalal-Zhu-Eaton-Vange further discloses the site system comprises: an electronic whiteboard configured to provide a graphical user interface provided by a shared workspace (Dalal, fig. 5, web browser providing a shared workspace, [0097]); a video and audio server configured to code and decode video and audio and to transmit and receive video and audio to and from any other site system for sharing motion and behavior of participants at the sites (Dalal, [0024], [0031], [0080]); an authentication unit configured to authenticate identification of the participants (Dalal, [0047], [0036]); and a site server configured to manage a session in the site systems (Dalal, fig. 1, client session controller), a file used in a conference and created as a record of the conference, reference information to a resource relevant to the conference, and history information of file access made by the participants (Dalal, [0036] lines 5-20).

11.   For claim 6, Dalal-Zhu-Eaton-Vange further discloses the shared workspace server is further configured to select a workspace based on user identification information transmitted from the site system (Dalal, [0030]).

12.   For claim 8, Dalal-Zhu-Eaton-Vange further discloses the shared workspace server is further configured to select a workspace based on workspace specification information transmitted from the site system (Dalal, [0036] lines 5-9).

13.   For claim 10, Dalal-Zhu-Eaton-Vange further discloses the shared
workspace server is further configured to respond to a file reference request
received from the site system, to start application software to reference the file
specified in the file reference request, and to provide an input/output interface
with the application software for each site system with a session established
(Dalal, [0036], [0096]).

14.   For claim 11, Dalal-Zhu-Eaton-Vange further discloses the shared
workspace server is further configured to, in a case where the file specified in the
file reference request is not previously registered in the workspace, temporarily
register the file specified in the file reference request (Dalal, [0057] lines 1-6,
[0058] lines 1-6).

15.   For claim 12, Dalal-Zhu-Eaton-Vange further discloses the site system is
configured to start application software to reference the file specified in a file
reference request, and to provide an input/output interface with the application
software for any other site system with a session established (Dalal, [0036],
[0096]).

16.   For claim 13, Dalal-Zhu-Eaton-Vange further discloses the site system is
further configured to receive the file specified in a file reference request from any
other site system, to start application software to reference the file specified in
the file reference request, and to provide an input/output interface with the

application software for any other site system with a session established (Dalal,

[0046] lines 10-18, [0036], [0096]).

17.   For claim 14, Dalal discloses a teleconference support method for

supporting realization of cooperative work among a plurality of conference

systems, the method comprising:

- providing at least one workspace to be shared by one or more conference

  systems ([0025], [0021]);

- opening at least one workspace of the at least one workspace in response

  to workspace selection of a user ([0051], joining a conference, [0055]);

- adding at least one opened workspace to an active workspace ([0054]-

  [0055], [0061] lines 14-18);

- managing use of the at least one workspace ([0026] lines 1-11);

- authenticating user access of the files in the opened workspace based on

  an access control list ([0057], user ID, [0046] lines 4-10, retrieving a

  conference database record file requires checking for user ID associated

  with that conference);

Dalal does not explicitly disclose:

- allowing users of the conference systems to share and to edit files to

  perform cooperative work between conference systems, wherein the files

  are located in the opened workspace;

However, in the same field of endeavors, Zhu discloses:

- allowing users of the conference systems to share and to edit files to perform cooperative work between conference systems, wherein the files are located in the opened workspace (abstract, a user can open and edit a recorded file in a conference);

It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Dalah and Zhu to enable users to share and edit files between the site systems to provide more functionality to the conference system.

Dalal-Zhu does not explicitly disclose assigning priority for displaying an initial workspace.

However, Eaton discloses assigning priority for displaying an initial session or workspace ([0031], prioritize the sessions for displaying to the user based on an algorithm).

It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Dalal, Zhu and Eaton to display to the user a highest priority session based on session priority levels so the user can participate in the most important session first.

Dalal-Zhu-Eaton does not disclose prioritizing is based on at least one of the following items of information: (i) network information of a server; (ii) position information of the server; (iii) information regarding a name of the shared workspace, file name and URL received from the server; (iv) a user's schedule information and current time; (v) company user name information; and (vi) information indicating what shared workspaces were used in the past.

However, Vange discloses priority levels are calculated based on network information of a server ([0016], priority of content based on server address, URL), name of session, filename and URL ([0016], session id, content id, URL), company user name information ([0016], user id, address)...

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Dalal, Zhu, Eaton and Vange to retrieve or display a conference session based on different priority levels so that different sessions can be retrieved optimally based on user, server and related network resource information.

18.   For claim 16, Dalal-Zhu-Eaton-Vange further discloses the managing use of the workspace includes providing a user interface for making reference to a file and/or a resource (Dalal, fig. 5, web browser, [0097]).

19.   For claim 17, Dalal-Zhu-Eaton-Vange further discloses the managing use of the workspace includes registering reference to a file and/or a resource (Dalal, [0036] lines 5-20).

20.   For claim 18, Dalal-Zhu-Eaton-Vange further discloses the managing use of the workspace includes switching a workspace, starting a subworkspace, and terminating the workspace (Dalal, [0067]-[0069], switching a workspace is just terminating the workspace and start a new workspace or subworkspace).

21.   For claim 19, Dalal-Zhu-Eaton-Vange further discloses in the managing

use of the workspace, the original workspace is deactivated in the switching of

the workspace and/or in the starting of the subworkspace (Dalal, [0069], the real-

time session is closed with the SPMS before a user can start a new workspace

(or switch to a new workspace)).

22.   For claim 20, the claim is rejected for the same rationale as claim 4.

23.   For claim 21, the claim is rejected for the same rationale as claim 6.

24.   For claim 22, the claim is rejected for the same rationale as claim 7.

25.   For claim 23, the claim is rejected for the same rationale as claim 8.

26.   For claim 26, Dalal discloses a teleconference system for supporting

realization of cooperative work among a plurality of conference systems, the

teleconference system comprising:

        site systems, each being installed at a plurality of sites, each site systems

being configured to operate the corresponding conference system (fig. 1, clients

with client conference controllers);

        a shared workspace server configured to connect the site systems to each

other and to provide a workspace, which is shared among the site systems (fig.

1, conference service provider, fig. 2, [0012], conference control tasks are
performed to enable users to perform cooperative work),

Dalal does not explicitly disclose:

in which users of the site systems share and edit files cooperatively;

a storage that stores the files which have been shared and edited, to allow
a user to access the files after the sharing and the editing are completed.

However, Zhu discloses the same (abstract, edit and sharing files
cooperatively, fig. 4 step 460, store data in a database after editing or sharing).

It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the
invention to combine the teachings of Dalah and Zhu to enable users to share
and edit files between the site systems to provide more functionality to the
conference system.

Dalal-Zhu does not explicitly disclose a prioritizor for assigning priority for
displaying an initial workspace.

However, Eaton discloses assigning priority for displaying an initial
session or workspace ([0031], prioritize the sessions for displaying to the user
based on an algorithm).

It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the
invention to combine the teachings of Dalal, Zhu and Eaton to display to the user
a highest priority session based on session priority levels so the user can
participate in the most important session first.

Dalal-Zhu-Eaton does not disclose prioritizing is based on at least one of

the following items of information: (i) network information of a server; (ii) position

information of the server; (iii) information regarding a name of the shared

workspace, file name and URL received from the server; (iv) a user's schedule

information and current time; (v) company user name information; and (vi)

information indicating what shared workspaces were used in the past.

However, Vange discloses priority levels are calculated based on network

information of a server ([0016], priority of content based on server address,

URL), name of session, filename and URL ([0016], session id, content id, URL),

company user name information ([0016], user id, address)...

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time

of the invention to combine the teachings of Dalal, Zhu, Eaton and Vange to

retrieve or display a conference session based on different priority levels so that

different sessions can be retrieved optimally based on user, server and related

network resource information.

27.   For claim 15, Dalal-Zhu-Eaton-Vange substantially discloses the invention

as in claim 14 above. Dalal-Zhu-Eaton-Vange does not explicitly selecting a

workspace from a plurality of workspace candidates from a user interface.

However, Dalal-Zhu-Eaton-Vange discloses the display of an invitation

message so that the user can choose to join the conference, i.e. workspace,

conference rooms (Dalal, [0051], conference information is displayed for the user

to select, reading a workspace candidate as an invitation message displayed on

the user interface).

Therefore, according to MPEP 2144.02, section VI(b), Duplication of

Parts, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the

invention to modify the teachings of Dalal in order to provide a plurality of

invitation messages and then display a plurality of invitation messages to the

user so that the user can select a conference or a workspace associated with an

invitation message that he/she wants to join to provide more functionality to the

system and more flexibility to the user (e.g., he/she can decide which conference

is more necessary to attend now and which can be hold off).

28.   For claim 25, the claim is rejected for the same rationale as in claim 15.

29.   Claims 7, 9 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Dalal-Zhu-Eaton-Vange, as applied to claims 6 and 8 above,

in view of Kisliakov (US 2005/0178833).

30.   For claims 7 and 9, Dalal-Zhu-Eaton-Vange substantially discloses the

invention as in claims 6 and 8 above. Dalal-Zhu-Eaton-Vange discloses the

shared workspace server is configured to select the workspace based on the

user identification information or workspace identification information transmitted

by the site system. Dalal-Zhu-Eaton-Vange does not explicitly disclose that the

identification information is transmitted using an IC card.

However, Kisliakov discloses using an IC card to store session and user identification information (see, e.g., [0227]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Dalal-Zhu-Eaton-Vange and Kisliakov in order to store ID information in a smart card therefore provide ease of ID information storage and retrieval with increased security protection (Kisliakov, [0002]).

31.   For claim 24, the claim is rejected for the same rationale as in claim 9.

Conclusion

32.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hieu T. Hoang whose telephone number is 571-270-1253. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bunjob Jaroenchonwanit can be reached on 571-272-3913. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

HH

/Kenny S Lin/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2452